

Several news outlets and blogs reported on the [field hearing Chairman Towns held](#) on July 19, 2010 in Brooklyn to examine alleged fraud at the Brooklyn North East local census office.

[Robert Brodsky at Government Executive wrote](#) :

The U.S. Census Bureau has fired two supervisors in a local New York field office after whistleblowers disclosed they were instructed to falsify population data, senior agency officials told a congressional panel on Monday. The former employees now are facing possible felony charges.

"This is deeply troubling," Bureau Director Robert Groves told members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee during a field hearing in downtown Brooklyn attended by several members of the New York congressional delegation. "I find it abhorrent to all of the principles underlying the work of the Census Bureau."...

In total, the office was required to redo more than 4,200 cases, or about 2 percent of Brooklyn's population. The IG puts the cost of the effort at approximately \$50,000 while Groves suggested it would be closer to \$250,000.

"Anything that compromises the integrity of the 2010 Census is unacceptable -- there's too much at stake here," said Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee whose home district includes much of Brooklyn. "We must do everything we can to make sure the final count is accurate and complete."

Jessica Dailey at the blog Brooklyn the Borough [also covered the hearing](#) :

Two Census Bureau managers from a Brooklyn field office may face criminal charges for allegedly faking more than 4,000 surveys. In a hearing Monday morning at the Brooklyn Borough Hall Courthouse, Todd Zinser, the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce, stated that he believes the managers violated a federal law that makes it a felony to falsify census records.

Rep. Ed Towns, chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, called the hearing to investigate whether the Census Bureau is following the necessary steps to ensure that every Brooklynite is counted. Representatives Charles Rangel, Yvette Clark, and William Lacy Clay, Chair of the Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee, joined Towns in hearing testimonies from Census Bureau director Dr. Robert Groves, Inspector General Todd Zinser, and Regional Director Tony Farthing...

The falsification in the Northeast Brooklyn office occurred during the weekend of June 12, and the issue came to light via email complaints sent to the OIG hotline by office workers who refused to take part. Zinser says the managers filled in the surveys with information gleaned from an online database called FastData. At first, it was reported that there were approximately 10,000 cases of potential falsification, but after investigating the incident, the IG says that only 4,221 household records in the affected neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Bedford-Stuyvesant,

Bushwick, and Greenpoint needed to be redone.

On July 7, Zinser referred the investigation to the attorney general's office. Out of nearly 700 complaints received by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), 400 have been investigated by the Census Bureau, but this is the only incident to be sent to the attorney general.

Remediation efforts included assigning employees from other Brooklyn census offices to re-enumerate every potentially fake questionnaire, but this only led to more problems. The OIG received two more complaints alleging that the employees were inferring the number of household residents through improper means, like counting the names on mailboxes or noting the presence of pets. The bureau is re-working all the affected cases, and further investigating. Despite the setbacks, Farthing says that re-enumeration is 80 percent complete, and Groves still expects to finish conducting surveys by the end of the month.